IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 25-28 and ADD claim 29 in accordance with the following:

Claims 1-4 (cancelled).

5. (previously presented) The electronic commerce system according to claim 28, further comprising a purchase and sale information managing unit concluding a transaction of the registered sale or purchase request, which is obtained by said searching unit.

Claims 6-8 (cancelled).

9. (previously presented) The electronic commerce system according to claim 26, further comprising a unit displaying a transaction partner that sets a transaction condition and a transaction partner that does not set a transaction condition by making a distinction between the transaction partners, when transaction partners searched by said searching unit are listed and displayed.

Claims 10-24 (cancelled).

25. (currently amended) An electronic commerce system aiding in purchase and sale of commodities, comprising:

a first ~~and second~~ registered commodity data storing ~~units~~ unit, associated with a first transaction partner, ~~each~~ storing for each commodity handled by the first transaction partner at least information identifying ~~commodities associated with registering transaction partners~~ the commodity, a set commodity ~~prices~~ price, and information relating to public disclosure indicating whether reference by other transaction partners ~~are~~ is allowed ~~access to the commodity prices~~;

a second registered commodity data storing unit associated with at least a second transaction partner, storing, for at least one commodity handled by at least the second transaction partner, information identifying the commodity, a usual commodity price, and price

change conditions including information of an associated commodity transacted with the least one commodity:

a search unit searching, in the second registered commodity data storing unit, for a first commodity identified by first information matching the information stored in said first registered commodity data storing unit as-for one of the commodities that may be publicly disclosed-and identified by the information stored in the second registered commodity data storing unit, and reading price change conditions including-the first information identifying a second commodity transacted with the first commodity, which are-is registered for another-the second transaction partner; and

a sale and purchase situation judgment unit referring to second information of the second commodity registered in association with the first commodity in the second registered commodity data storing unit and, when the second information matches the information stored in said first registered commodity data storing unit for another of the commodities as publicly disclosed or publicly nondisclosed, judging both the first commodity and the second commodity as tradable candidates, if the information identifying the second commodity is stored in the first registered commodity data storing unit as publicly disclosed or publicly nondisclosed by referring to the information of the second commodity registered in association with the first commodity in the second registered commodity data storing unit.

26. (currently amended) The electronic commerce system according to claim 25, further comprising outputting transaction completion information of the first and second commodities when, with regard to the first commodity, a first price of the first commodity-stored in the first registered commodity data storing unit matches a changed price obtained based on a-the price change conditions of a second price for the first commodity-registered in the second registered commodity data storing unit, and when, with regard to the second commodity, a third-second price for the second commodity-stored in the first registered commodity data storing unit matches a fourth-third price for the second commodity-registered in the second registered commodity data storing unit.

27. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for aiding in purchase and sale of commodities that when executed causes a computer to perform a process comprising:

storing in a first registered commodity data storing unit, associated with a first transaction partner, for each commodity handled by the first transaction partner at least information

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identifying ~~a first set of commodities~~ the commodity, a set commodity ~~prices~~ price, and information relating to public disclosure, indicating whether reference by other transaction partners ~~are~~ is allowed ~~access to the commodity prices, in association with a first transaction partner for each commodity handled by the first transaction partner~~;

storing. in a second registered commodity data storing unit associated with at least a second transaction partner, for at least one commodity handled by at least the second transaction partner, information identifying the commodity, a usual commodity price, and price change conditions including information of an associated commodity transacted with the commodity;

searching, in the second registered commodity data storing unit, for a first commodity identified by first information matching the information stored in the first registered commodity data storing unit ~~as~~ for one of the commodities that may be publicly disclosed, ~~that corresponds to the information identifying the first commodity from a second registered commodity data storing unit storing~~ the first information identifying ~~a second set of commodities, a commodity price, and price change conditions including the information of~~ a second commodity transacted with the first commodity, which ~~are~~ is registered for ~~a~~ the second transaction partner;

referring to second information of the second commodity registered in association with the first commodity in the second registered commodity data storing unit; and

judging both the first and second commodities as tradable candidates, if the second information matches the information ~~identifying the second commodity is~~ stored in the first registered commodity data storing unit for another of the commodities as publicly disclosed or publicly nondisclosed ~~, by referring to the information of the second commodity registered in association with the first commodity from the second registered commodity data storing unit~~.

28. (currently amended) An electronic commerce method aiding in purchase and sale of commodities, comprising:

storing ~~as~~ in a first registered commodity data ~~for~~ storing unit, associated with a first transaction partner, for each commodity handled by the first transaction partner at least information identifying ~~a first set of commodities and for each~~ the commodity, a ~~in the first set, a~~ commodity price and information relating to public disclosure, indicating whether access by other transaction partners is allowed;

storing. in a second registered commodity data storing unit associated with at least a second transaction partner, for at least one commodity handled by at least the second transaction partner, information identifying the commodity, a usual commodity price, and price

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change conditions including information of an associated commodity transacted with the
commodity;

searching, in the second registered commodity data storing unit, for ~~the information
identifying~~ a first commodity ~~included~~ identified by first information matching the information
stored in the first registered commodity data ~~as~~ storing unit for one of the commodities that may
be publicly disclosed, ~~that matches~~ the first information identifying ~~the first commodity in second
registered commodity data containing information identifying a second set of commodities
handled by other transaction partners and, for each commodity in the second set, the commodity
price and price change conditions, including information identifying~~ a second commodity
transacted with the first commodity by the second transaction partner;

referring to second information of the second commodity registered in association with
the first commodity in the second registered commodity data storing unit; and

judging both the first and second commodities as tradable candidates, if the second
information matches the information ~~identifying the second commodity is~~ stored in the first
registered commodity data storing unit for another of the commodities as publicly disclosed or
publicly nondisclosed, ~~by referring to the information identifying the second commodity
registered in association with the first commodity in the second registered commodity data~~.

29. (new) An electronic commerce system aiding in purchase and sale of commodities,
comprising:

a registered commodity data storage unit storing records with registered commodity
identifiers identifying commodities and registered commodity price information, and registered
purchase/sale information indicating whether the commodities are desired by or available from
registered transaction partners;

trader commodity data storage units, each storing trader-specific information, including
trader commodity identifiers, trader commodity price information, trader purchase/sale
information and, for each record containing the registered commodity price information,
public/private information indicating whether transaction partners are allowed access to the
registered commodity price information in that record;

a search unit searching said registered commodity data storage unit for a first
commodity, one of desired by and available from a first transaction partner, and reading price
change conditions including a related commodity identifier identifying a second commodity
transacted with the first commodity by a second transaction partner when the public/private

information for one of the records identifying the first commodity transacted by the second transaction partner indicates public access to the price change conditions; and

a judgment unit determining that both the first and second commodities are tradable candidates if the related commodity identifier matches one of the trader commodity identifiers and the trader commodity price information and the trader purchase/sale information for the first transaction partner is compatible with the registered commodity price information and the registered purchase/sale information for the second transaction partner.